

List of Public Input Specific to Recommendations
Updated January 28, 2009

Recommendation #1 - Adoption of a City ordinance that is more restrictive on solicitation.

Police presence is more important than response or enforcement.

Ordinance is useful as long as it's enforceable.

D.O. has authorized funding to match city funds for a pilot program that will allow for a retired officer to serve as a part-time foot/bike patrol along downtown State Street corridor.

Bullet #2 (illegal to solicit in a vehicle on a public street or alleyway) should be revised because the way it is written implies that a person would be prohibited from soliciting from a vehicle.

Make the distinction regarding the definition of panhandling on recommendation #1.

Expand the area of the ordinance on Cabrillo Blvd down to Pershing Park.

“Should” in recommendation #1 (enforcement of this ordinance should be done in coordination with a panhandling education campaign and compassion not cash alternative giving campaign) be changed to “must”.

Purpose of a panhandling ordinance should be to address a specific behavior, not end homelessness.

Recommendation #2: Continue and expand intergovernmental cooperation to curb negative behavior.

City should confer with the County regarding the impacts on the Public Defender's Office before implementing (prosecuting municipal code violations as misdemeanors instead of infractions for chronic offenders and in certain areas of the City).

Everyone should have equal protection under the law and prosecuting individuals in certain areas and chronic offenders is contrary to this.

Recommendation #3: Continue to utilize Police Department deployment strategies to best meet the immediate demands of the community.

Concern about private funding of police officer; raises a series of questions regarding the objectivity of the officers.

Don't redeploy officers because it would cause a significant conflict in the community; more work needs to be done in this area and a broader solution needs to be considered.

Police redeployment needs to include more restorative policing.

Create a Santa Barbara City Department of Homeless Services (DHS). This city department helps coordinate the various homeless shelters in the area, performs audits to insure that city funds are being spent as intended (for example verify that the shelters and services are supporting local families who have become homeless first and foremost and not homeless people who come from out of the area), determine and execute on measurable targets to reduce the number of homeless people on the street and related violations of the laws, public health and safety, and coordinate with other agencies to reduce Santa Barbara's homeless population (for example provide strong encouragement to homeless people coming to Santa Barbara to return to their families or back to their original support systems).

Recommendation #4: Implement Principles of a Recovery Zone for the Milpas Area to the extent legally permissible.

It's useful as long as it's enforceable.

A separate task force needs to work on implementing the strategies of a recovery zone; if the enforcement strategies are done there will be people who fall apart and they will need a place to go and recover.

Recovery Zone should deal with chronic inebriates as well as drug dealers.

Recovery zone needs to include something about existing stores selling liquor.

Recommendation #5: Encourage coordination and cooperation of **street outreach** teams and the Police Department to work with those on the Top 100 open container offender list.

Recommendation should state that the outreach should be under one umbrella. Bringing Our Community Home (BOCH) would be willing to serve as the coordinating umbrella.

Make homeless outreach a priority for CDBG/Human Services grants.

Make participation in homeless outreach coordination a condition of City funding.

Send letter to County Housing and Community Development Director urging them to make homeless outreach a priority for their funding in partnership with the City.

Have BOCH be the lead agency to coordinate the homeless outreach collaboration.

There needs to be a connection made before referrals to homeless services are made.

Cost out the number of outreach workers that can be hired versus police officers.

Take out the strategy regarding the outreach meeting at Cottage Hospital as that meeting has a very specific purpose.

Having street outreach workers contact homeless persons prior to enforcement actions are a bad idea.

Provide a 24/7, 311 phone number as New York is doing (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/html/press/pr030408.shtml>) to get the proper person to each homeless incident call. The city will provide trained 311 operators and educate the public about the availability and benefits of the 311 number. The 311 education can be combined with the same education program to put handout money in "giving stations" instead of to panhandlers. The sub-committee meetings on homelessness have talked a lot about outreach workers being first responders instead of the police. Unfortunately, without 24/7 services and a well known number like 311, people in the community are going to keep calling the police- 311 is a solution to this problem.

Greater coordination and cooperation between police officers and street outreach teams and increased funding for mental illness screenings, mental health staff, and restorative policing. (Recommendations #5 & #9)

Recommendation #6: *If Casa Esperanza wishes to amend its conditional use permit to allow for an increase in their year round beds for vulnerable populations (i.e. women with children, elderly, youth aging out of the foster care system, persons with medical conditions and persons on the Top 100 list who are ready to get off the street and into recovery), work with them and their neighbors in the amendment process to assess the potential impact on the neighborhood and identify mitigation strategies.*

This recommendation should begin with, "The subcommittee recommends an increased bed capacity in the City".

Not supportive of Casa Esperanza year-round bed expansion because the area is already impacted.

No additional funding for homeless shelters in Santa Barbara.

Do not allow the 100 additional beds at Casa Esperanza to be used year round for any group-at risk or otherwise. And go back to the original 30 beds.

Forty more beds annually allocated for Casa Esperanza to be made available to the most vulnerable of those experiencing homelessness: women, the elderly, and those struggling with mental illness. (recommendations #6 & #7)

Recommendation #7: *Consider using Redevelopment Agency funds for capital improvements in the area to mitigate the impact of the shelter. Projects could include Cabrillo Ball Field, lighting on Milpas Street, etc.*

Recommendation #8: Assist with securing locations and funding for more **detox beds and recovery beds** for homeless individuals with substance abuse issues.

Securing locations and funding for more detox beds allocated to those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. (Recommendation #8)

Recommendation #9: Continue and expand the **Restorative Policing Program** to work with homeless persons with mental illness.

City needs more restorative policing.

Greater coordination and cooperation between police officers and street outreach teams and increased funding for mental illness screenings, mental health staff, and restorative policing. (Recommendations #5 & #9)

Recommendation #10: Assist service providers in securing additional funding for **relocation funds and emergency hotel vouchers** and programs to help **reconnect** people with their families.

Money from affordable overnight accommodation fund should go for funding counseling services.

Formulating appropriation measures for use of the Coastal Zone Affordable Overnight Accommodation Fund to provide emergency hotel vouchers as well as aid in helping people move into more substantial, long-term housing- If the real goal is to help get those who are chronically homeless off the Street, then they must be offered a place to belong, not simply be removed. We support the research and work of Roger Heroux who argues that moving people into more permanent supportive housing is both humane and a cost-saving measure that, overtime, will pay for itself (recommendations #10 & #12)

Recommendation #11: Develop a **panhandling and alternate giving campaign** in collaboration with the Downtown Organization, the Conference and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, the Greater S.B. Lodging and Restaurant Association, homeless service providers, and homeless advocates.

Better to have collection points on the street where the actual “giving” occurs.

Research other communities who have participated to see if they were successful.

“Santa Barbara Cares” could be appropriate theme.

Money raised in an alternate giving campaign be given solely to street outreach.

Needs to be further research on an alternate giving campaign to find out who has participated and if it was successful, why; and if it was not successful, why not. Business community will participate in the data gathering.

It would be beneficial for people to know where the money will go from an alternate giving campaign.

Money from alternative giving campaign should go for funding counseling services.

#11 Alternative Giving: Keys to a Room

We support some kind of reframing of the language of “panhandling and alternative giving campaign”. We have concerns with reinforcing the stereotype of identifying all homeless individuals as panhandlers. We would suggest a focus first on educating the public on the most humane, compassionate, cost effective and proven successful support for chronic homeless individuals: support for permanent housing and support services. Then it follows that we can develop an alternative giving campaign where compassionate communities can make donations for housing vouchers for these homeless individuals, eliminating the detrimental effects of giving cash to those on the streets who, without the option of housing with services, resort to using the money for supporting harmful and even fatal addictions.

Developing an education campaign (eg. Santa Barbara Cares) about homelessness that includes current efforts associated the ten-Year Plan and utilizes donation boxes, in lieu of simply handing money to those on the street. Such funds could help provide hotel vouchers for those who are vulnerable as well as hind measures to move chronically homeless men and women into permanent supportive housing- Nevertheless we caution the use of language like panhandling” which fails to explain adequately the needs and issues of those who seek both money and connections with others. (Recommendation #11)

Recommendation #12: Continue looking for opportunities to assist with affordable housing projects, especially those involving permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals.

#12 City assistance for increasing affordable housing. We have seen the success of the El Carrillo model. Mike Foley mentioned another model, less expensive, called the Master Leasing Model. We understand it would provide the same guidelines as the El Carrillo for homeless individuals. A non profit organization would ensure potential housing owners of rent payments and protection of their property, and would also provide case managers for each resident. Whatever the model, most important is support for a recommendation for specific activities to increase affordable housing. Again the report on the homeless in Santa Barbara sites research showing 83% of mentally ill homeless remained in permanent housing with support a year later. So too 90 % remained sober as compared to 55% in a halfway house. The key to the elimination of the chronic homeless individuals from the streets is not the key to a jail cell, but the key to a room and outreach support staff to accompany these individuals.

Formulating appropriation measures for use of the Coastal Zone Affordable Overnight Accommodation Fund to provide emergency hotel vouchers as well as aid in helping people move into more substantial, long-term housing- If the real goal is to help get those who are chronically homeless of the Street, then they must be offered a place to belong, not simply be removed. We support the research and work of Roger Heroux who argues that moving people into more permanent supportive housing is both humane and a cost-saving measure that, overtime, will pay for itself (recommendations #10 & #12)